JUNE / JULY 2014 SUMMER EDITION

CITY LIFE

The Summer Sun – and rain

The start of summer in Japan is marked by the plum rains, *tsuyu*, which drench the country for as much as a month and a half. As with other natural seasonal phenomena in Japan, *tsuyu* makes its way from one end of the country to the other. Like sakura, the plum rains make their way from south to north.

Tsuyu is associated with an inescapable mildew-causing damp and the nourishment of Japan's many rice fields. *Tsuyu* is written with the Chinese characters (kanji) for plum (梅) and rain (雨) and can also be pronounced "*baiu*".

When *tsuyu* ends, summer proper is deemed to have begun, and the temperature quickly rises.

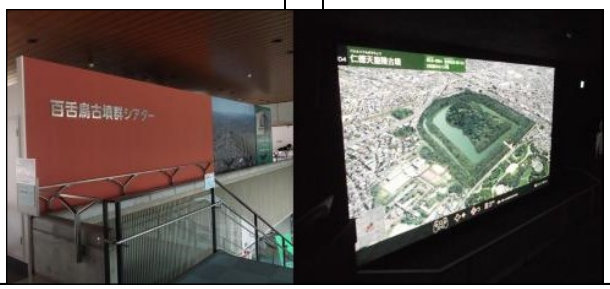
Summer in most of Japan is hot and humid with the temperature in major cities often remaining above 30 degrees centigrade for days on end. This is in large part caused by the "heat island effect" which is found in cities all over the world and refers to urban areas having higher temperatures than the surrounding countryside because of, amongst other things, the retention of heat by manmade surfaces such as concrete and asphalt.

This can make Sakai pretty warm too – some places to go to escape the heat include Sakai's three outdoor pools (Izumigaoka, Ohama Park, and Kanaoka Park – prices inside), public libraries, the Sakai City Museum, Sofia Sakai planetarium (which are all air conditioned) and so on.

The most important thing is to drink plenty of water (and eat plenty of ice cream!). Heat stroke or "necchusho" is a major danger in summer and can be avoided by the intake of plenty of liquids and sticking to the shade during the middle of the day.

The long months of summer this year will also be a great chance to visit Sakai City Museum's brand new attraction – an audio-visual masterpiece that will bring you closer than ever before to Sakai's landmark tumuli. Ever wondered what the inner moats of Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun look like? Ever wondered what the *kofun* used to look like before they were covered with trees? Well, now's your chance to find out!

The Mozu Kofungun Theatre was opened at the same time as a refurbished exhibit on the tumuli in the Sakai area which is [Cont. overleaf]



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Message from the Editor

Hello everyone! It looks set to be another really hot summer—many places have already hit 30 degrees (and I'm writing this in May!) In this issue of City Life you will find a bit of information on events going on throughout the summer and a lot of details on more serious things.

At any rate, enjoy the summer months and don't forget to drink plenty of water!

All the best,

Felix

Please bear in mind...

Most of the contact details below will only offer assistance in Japanese. At the Sakai City International Department, we can help find the answer to simple questions and where necessary, put you in touch with a volunteer interpreter service.

Please contact Felix at the International Department

(TEL) 072-222-7343

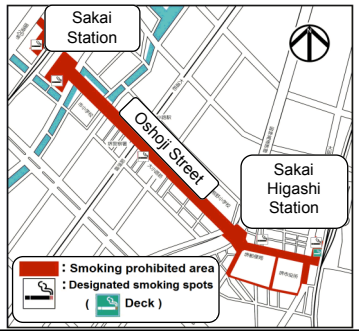
or

(Email) kokusai@ city.sakai.lg.jp

Smoking and Littering

Please be aware that there's a city-wide ban on smoking and littering on streets and roads in Sakai, and that there's an awareness raising campaign being held in the areas around major stations in city. In particular, the areas in front of Sakai Higashi Station and Sakai Station, around the Sakai City Office, and along Oshoji St. have been designated as a smoke-free zone—if you're caught smoking or littering, you could face a ¥1,000 fine—even if you're riding a bike or scooter at the time!

Let's all work together as a city to make Sakai a safe and comfortable community, free from litter and second-hand smoke! Please call the Public Sanitation Division on 072-228-7429 if you have any questions.



SAKAI NO TAKUMI - An Exhibition by a Team of Sakai's Elite Bladesmiths

From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on the 8th of June (Sun) a number of Sakai's traditional bladesmiths, including Mr Tadashi Enami and four others, will be holding knife making demonstrations in Daisen Park's Japanese garden. Watchers will be given the chance to swing the hammer a bit themselves.
The schedule for traditional smithing demonstrations is as follows:
10:00 am – 10:30 am
11:00 am – 11:30 am
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

The event may be cancelled in the event of bad weather.
The exhibition is free to watch and no bookings are required, however the Japanese garden's entry fee applies:
General: 200 yen Children: 100 yen
Those 65 and over and the disabled go free
Please direct enquiries to the Daisen Park Office
(TEL-FAX) 072-247-3670
These pictures are from the exhibition held during the Sakai Festival.

SAKAI GRAND EVENING FISH MARKET

This year's Sakai Grand Evening Fish Market will be being held on Thursday, July 31st from 1:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

The Sakai Grand Evening Fish Market began as a market for Sakai's fishermen to sell off fish left over from the offerings they made at Sumiyoshi Grand Shrine to ensure bountiful catches and safe navigation. The market dates back 700 years to the Kamakura period and has become a time-honoured Sakai tradition.

Stage events begin, and stall and booth trading starts from 1:00 pm. After 7:00 pm anyone can enjoy haggling with wily fish sellers and participating in the auction for the freshest seafood around.

Event Information:

- 4 – 5 Ohamakita-machi, Sakai Ward.
- 800 metres west of Sakai Station (Nankai Mainline)
- Parking: unavailable (incl. Ohama Park)
- Entry: free

Please direct enquiries to the Sakai Grand Evening Fish Market Executive Committee (2-2-3 Nakanocho Nishi, Sakai Ward).

(TEL) 072-227-8841

Front Page Continued

complete with English, Chinese, and Korean translations. The refurbished Nankai/JR Mikunigaoka Station is also worth having a look at, even if you don't usually stop there. There a number of new shops, a noodle bar, and a café, as well a rooftop garden from which you can get a feeling of the size of Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun.

Pools are an excellent place to cool off during the summer. Sakai has three city-owned pools, conveniently placed for your bathing pleasure.

Pool	Summer Dates	Opening Hours	Prices
Izumigaoka	July 1—Sept 7	9:30 am—6:00 pm	A: 500 JHS: 400 ES: 200 PreS: Free 65+:250
Kanaoka Park	July 1—Sept 1	9:30 am—5:45 pm	A: 300 JHS/ES: 100
Ohama Park	July 1– Sept 1	9:30 am—5:45 pm	A: 300 JHS/ES: 100

*Kanaoka Pool and Ohama Park Pool offer points cards that allow 6 entries for the price of 5.
Coin lockers are 50 yen per usage at all three pools.

The 184th View21 Concert - Desiderium

The June View21 Concert is being held on June 13th (Fri) from 12:10. The concert is titled Desiderium

It will take place in the 21st Floor Observation Lobby of the Sakai City Hall. Entry is free.

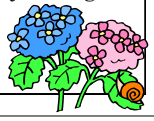
Performer: Kuwata Maki
The pieces, all by Chopin, will include

- Étude Op. 10, No. 3
- Étude Op. 10, No. 12
- Fantaisie in F minor Op. 49
- Nocturne No. 20

Ms Kuwata graduated from Osaka Prefectural Yuhigaoka High School Music Department. She majored in piano in the Osaka College of Music's Department of Instrumental Music where she won a prize for best performance and graduated top of her class in 2007.
Ms Kuwata has performed at many up-and-coming musician concerts and other notable venues.
She is registered in the Sakai City Up-and-Coming Artist Bank.

Hydrangeas at the Sambo Sewage Treatment Plant

During the second week of June, the Sambo Sewage Treatment Plant will be opened to the public so that all can see the 1,000 or so hydrangeas the plant houses. The garden includes 50 different types of hydrangeas. This includes the chance to see rare green hydrangeas and mountain hydrangeas or "tea of heaven". There is also a potted plant corner where you can enjoy the hydrangea's charm to your heart's delight.
This year the plant is open from June 7th (Sat) to June 15th (Sun).
Hours are 10:00 am – 4:00 pm during the week and 10:00 am – 5:00 pm at the weekend.
The Sambo plant is accessible by Nankai Bus. Get off at Matsuya-yamatogawa dori bus stop (Sakai Ward).



Japanese Irises in Shirasagi Park

Early June is the time to see Japanese irises and one of the best places in Sakai to enjoy their vivid colours is Shirasagi Park. The Japanese iris was chosen by a popular vote in 1989 as Sakai City's flower to mark the 100th anniversary of the Sakai formally becoming a city. Following its designation as the city's flower, it was planted around ponds etc. in the park.

Every year visitors to the park are presented with a riot of purple, white, and pink.

The Japanese iris or "hanashobu" is a horticultural variety of iris derived from irises growing wild in Japan. There are thought to be some 3,000 different varieties of cultivated Japanese iris and they are broadly grouped into three categories: Edo-type, Higo-type, and Ise-type. Shirasagi Park's collection contains some 10,000 irises of around 150 different varieties.

The park can be accessed from Shirasagi Station on the Nankai Koya Line. The park entrance is around 200 m south of the station. Entry is free.

豪雨 (*GO-U*) Torrential Rain

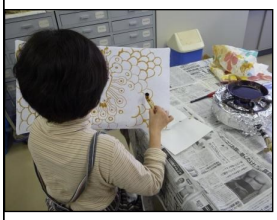
Last year, Typhoon No. 18 (Man-yi) caused terrible damage in Kyoto Prefecture and other areas. In Sakai as well, the Yamatogawa River rose significantly leading to the evacuation of certain areas. As we head towards this year's rainy season, it is crucial that all Sakai residents understand what they must do in the event of dangerously heavy rain in their areas. Protecting yourself and your family from harm caused by flooding or landslides can be as simple as making a habit of checking the weather forecast and being alert for weather warnings on the television, radio, and internet. It is also a good idea to know where your nearest evacuation site is, how to get there, and what you have to take if you need to evacuate.

Please direct general enquiries to the Crisis Management Office (TEL) 072-228-7605 (FAX) 072-222-7339.

More information can be found on the following homepages:
http://www.kikikanri1.city.sakai.lg.jp/index.htm
http://www.osaka-kasen-portal.net/suibou/index.html
http://www.osaka-bousai.net/sabou/Index.html
http://www.kkr.mlit.go.jp/yamato/index.php

ASEAN Culture Seminar

In collaboration with the Citizens' Science Seminar Association, Sakai City will be holding a seminar on Indonesian Batik dyeing where participants will have a chance to design their own original *tenugui* hand towel.



The seminar will take place from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on July 8th (Tues) at Sofia Sakai (1426 Fukaishimizu-cho, Naka Ward).

The seminar will be taught by textile designer Ms Mutsumi Oku.

The participation cost is 1,500 yen per person. Apply by sending your name, address, postcode, telephone number and the name of the seminar (Indonesian Batik) to the ASEAN Week Executive Committee Secretariat by return-paid postcard, fax or email. Applications must arrive by June 20th at the latest.

(TEL) 072-222-7343
(FAX) 072-228-7900
(Email) ako@city.sakai.lg.jp
(Address) ASEAN Exchange Promotion Office
3-1 Minamikawara-machi
Sakai Ward 590-0078
Numbers are limited to 8 applications that will be chosen by ballot.

What's on at Sakai City Museum?

Museum Exhibitions

The Sakai City Museum is located in Daisen Park. It holds thematic exhibitions in addition to the general exhibition on the history and culture of Sakai.

Exhibition: Nukina Suou's Masterpieces

From June 21st (Sat) to September 15th (Mon / public holiday)
Venue: First floor exhibition corner

Nukina Suou (Kaioku) (1778 – 1863) was a calligrapher born in Awa – Tokushima. While lecturing on Confucianism in Kyoto he produced masterpieces in the styles of Wang Xizhi and his son from Jin Dynasty China and Chu Suiliang from Tang Dynasty China which were found in the works of Heian period calligraphers such as Kukai, and was also a renowned Nan-ga painter.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Nukina Suou's death which has led to a boom in interest in Nukina and his works.

In response to requests from the calligraphy community for the opening to the public of the celebrated Yamashita Collection which belongs to Sakai City Museum and is one of the three big Nukina collections, this exhibition will be featuring many Nukina pieces so that viewers can get their fill of the beauty of the ink painting world.

Nukina's works form a prime example of calligraphic technique for those interested in *shodo* and a fine chance to appreciate beautiful Japanese script for everyone.

Exhibition: The Treasured Hachigamine Buddhas of the Izuminokuni Hodoji Temple

From May 17th (Sat) to June 15th (Sun)
Venue: First floor Exhibition Corner

Hachigamine Hodoji in southeastern Sakai is an ancient temple renowned for its many cultural treasures. Amongst them, The Sixteen Arhats paintings, designated National Important Cultural Properties, will be on display having recently undergone a six year renovation period that finished in March last year.

As this exhibition is to celebrate the anniversary of the completion of their renovation, all 16 will be on show in the same place – an exceedingly rare occurrence.

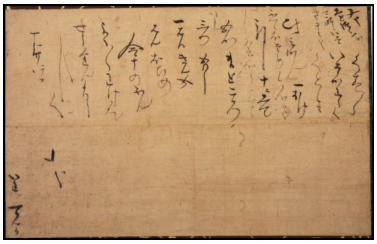
At the same time, various other cultural artifacts kept at Hodoji such as Buddha statues, Buddhist paintings, old scrolls with the temple's origins written on them, temple name boards and ancient tiles will be on display, shedding light on the history of the former Izuminokuni feudal domain's ancient temple.

Spot Display: Reading Old Writing

From June 3rd (Tues) to July 6th (Sun)
Venue: the Spot Display Corner of the First Floor Permanent Display Hall.

Sakai City Museum possesses a lot of historical material, much of which is related to the history of Sakai. Historical documents make up an indispensable part of that material. However, with the exception of those who have been taught how to decipher them and those who have studied Japanese history in depth, people often find such documents fairly inaccessible and unexciting because of the difficulty of the script.

This exhibition aims to change that by presenting basic knowledge based on letters and petitions written between the Sengoku Period and the Edo period, while providing explanation of the shape and character of historical documents.



Opening Hours		
Open	Tuesday-Sunday	9:30-17:15 (enter by 16:30)
Closed	Mondays	
	Year-end and New Year Holidays	
	The day following public holidays	
Contact museum for details (TEL) 072-245-6201		

Admission	Museum Entry only
Adults	200 yen
University/senior high	100 yen
Elementary/junior	50 yen

Discounts apply for groups (20 persons or more). Junior high school students and elementary pupils attending schools or living in Sakai, as well as foreign exchange students with suitable identification are admitted for free.

Tandem Salon Membership Drive

The Tandem Salon is open every Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, and members can drop in at any time. The Salon will be run in the Kanaoka Public Hall (*Kanaoka Kominkan*) except on the second Friday of each month when it will be run in the Shinkanaoka Community Centre (*Shinkanaoka Shimin Centre*).
Salon membership costs 2,000 yen.
Salon's official language is English.
The Salon is a place where people who want a break from speaking Japanese can go to speak in English – or where people seeking to improve their Japanese can go practice and study.
Speakers of all other languages are welcome too!

For more details see the blog below or ring or email Maki.
Blog: http://multilingual-club.blogspot.jp/
Email: makireisen@googlemail.com

A Word from the Fire Bureau

Fire Prevention Starts in the Home

Most of the fires that occurred within the Sakai Fire Bureau's area of responsibility last year were building fires, and roughly half of those were residential property fires.

Everyone living in Sakai must do their part to stop fires from breaking out. The following tips can help prevent (or help deal with) fires in the home.

Fire alarms

Most deaths caused by fires in the home occur when people don't realise there's a fire until it's too late. The installation of fire alarms in bedrooms has been made compulsory because of the frequency of deaths caused by fires that break out when people are asleep. If you haven't had them installed in your house or bedrooms, please do so immediately.

Fire alarms in houses generally need to be replaced every five to ten years. Please replace your fire alarm either when the irregularity warning sounds (if your fire alarms have an automatic checking function) or when the alarm reaches the replacement date displayed on it. Please check your fire alarm's user manual for further details.

Fire extinguishers

Should a fire break out, often the most effective way to deal with it is to use your home fire extinguisher to put it out. Fire extinguishers are not compulsory but having one is recommended.

Flame retardant products

Flame retardant products have improved fabric specially designed not to catch fire or to slow the spread of the fire even if they do catch. Examples of such products include flame retardant curtains, bedding, and car body-covers.

Again, while these products are not obligatory, their use can go a long way to preventing the outbreak and spread of fires.

Basic Japanese Lessons

にほんご

From September to November this year, Sakai International Plaza will be running beginner level Japanese lessons for adults. The lessons will take place during the day time on weekdays.

The lessons will be free and are open to adults working, living, or studying in Sakai. Applications will be accepted from July.

For more information please contact Sakai International Plaza (TEL) 072-228-7499 (Email) kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp or check for the update on the City Life homepage at the start of July. Enquiries in English, Chinese, Korean , Spanish and Portuguese welcome.

June is Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention Month

Public health centres within Sakai City hold anonymous, no booking required testing once a month for HIV antibodies, syphilis and chlamydia. The following testing options are free: HIV test only; and the HIV, syphilis and chlamydia test set. Please note that the chlamydia test requires a urine sample which can only be taken at least one hour after the last urination. In the event that there is a lot of blood in the sample, it is possible that the test may not give correct results. For dates and times, and places, please enquire (in Japanese) to the Infectious Disease Control Division of the Public Health Department ((TEL) 072-222-9933 (FAX) 072-222-9876) or one of the public health centres below:

Public Health Centres (Japanese language assistance only)			
Sakai Ward	TEL 072-238-0123	Minami Ward	TEL 072-293-1222
	FAX 072-227-1593		FAX 072-296-2822
Naka Ward	TEL 072-270-8100	Kita Ward	TEL 072-258-6600
	FAX 072-270-8104		FAX 072-258-6614
Higashi Ward	TEL 072-287-8120	Mihara Ward	TEL 072-362-8681
	FAX 072-287-8130		FAX 072-362-8676
Nishi Ward	TEL 072-271-2012	Chinugaoka	TEL 072-241-6484
	FAX 072-273-3646		FAX 072-247-3201

Food Safety

Every year between June and October cases of food poisoning abound. In particular, germs are very active during the hot and humid rainy season. Even though food poisoning bacteria may be present in your food and multiplying, there may be no change in the food's appearance, smell, or taste, making it very difficult to detect.

Pay attention to the following pointers to keep yourself and your family safe.

When buying food:

Before buying, check the use-by date and level of freshness. Only buy what you need. When buying food that needs to be kept refrigerated or frozen, aim to purchase it last. After buying such food, get it into the fridge or freezer as soon as you can.

Storage:

Generally, fridges should be kept below 10 ℃ and freezers below -15 ℃. Leaving your fridge or freezer's door open, or putting too much inside it can cause the inside temperature to increase, so aim to close the door as soon as you can when taking things out, and try not to fill your fridge or freezer above 70 percent.

When cooking:

Always wash your hands before preparing food. Make sure you also wash your chopping board and knives in hot water before you start cooking. In particular, after handling raw meat or fish, be sure to wash your hands and cooking utensils before handling other food. When heating food, ensure that it is cooked through (i.e. that the centre of the piece of meat etc. is thoroughly cooked).

Eating:

After food has been prepared, try to eat it straight away. If it is likely to be a while before you eat the food, do not leave it at room temperature – put it in a shallow dish where it will cool easily, and then place the dish in the freezer or fridge. When you eat it after that, be sure to reheat it thoroughly.

When you have a barbeque, keep chopsticks used for handling the raw meat separate from the ones used for eating.

Enquiries: Food Sanitation Division
(TEL) 072-222-9925
(FAX) 072-222-1406

http://www.city.sakai.lg.jp/english/visitors/newsletter/index.html

JUNE 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Hydrangea viewing begins
8 Knife-making Event	9	10	11	12	13 View21 Concert	14
15 Hydrangea viewing ends	16	17	18	19	20 ASEAN Culture Seminar applications close	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Municipal and prefectural taxes due	1	2	3	3	5

JULY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
29	30	1 Sakai Public Pools Open	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 ASEAN Culture Seminar	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	**21 Marine Day (public holiday**	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Grand Sakai Night Fish Market	1	2

Payment of Municipal and Prefectural Tax

Municipal and Prefectural income taxes are paid in quarterly installments the year after they are earned. The first payment is due by **Monday, June 30th, 2014**. You can pay at financial institutions, post offices, most convenience stores or at any city tax office. Please check your bank balance first if you wish to pay by automatic transfer (the funds will be transferred on June 30th), and please contact your local tax office with any questions.

Office	Phone Number	Fax Number
Sakai Ward City Tax Office	072-228-7411	072-228-7766
Naka Ward City Tax Office	072-270-8187	072-270-8102
Higashi Ward City Tax Office	072-287-8106	072-287-8115
Nishi Ward City Tax Office	072-275-1907	072-275-1917
Minami Ward City Tax Office	072-290-1806	072-290-1816
Kita Ward City Tax Office	072-258-6724	072-258-6822
Mihara Ward City Tax Office	072-363-9318	072-361-1889
Tax Collection Division	072-228-3957	072-228-7618

The objective of City Life is to provide non-Japanese residents and visitors with information about daily life and events in Sakai. Published by the International Division, Sakai City Government, 3-1 Minamikawara-machi, Sakai-ku, Sakai, Osaka 590-0078

Tel:072-222-7343
Fax:072-228-7900

This issue was compiled by Felix Campbell, Coordinator of International Relations. Published on the 1st of every second month.

Pick up your next copy of City Life from the 6th floor of Sakai City Hall or from:

- Kita Ward Office
- Naka Ward Office
- Minami Ward Office
- Nishi Ward Office
- Higashi Ward Office
- Mihara Ward Office

Foreigners living in Sakai are eligible for free delivery. Please email us with your name and address. Japanese persons need to send a self addressed stamped envelope (12x24cm)

If you would like to give feedback or contribute something to City Life (event information, hints for living in Japan, recipes etc.) please contact Felix at:

kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp